

Remarks

Claims 18-35 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, and 27-33 and added new claim 35 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants have amended the claims to address the objections to the claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 24 and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 24 to clarify that another foam removal step is being carried out. Applicants have amended claims 28 and 31 to delete the phrase "or the like" and claim 28 to delete the phrase "such as".

Regarding claim 29, this claim is consistent with Fig. 2 and the description of Fig. 2. Along these lines, tank 7 includes two points where the surface of fluid in the tank may be removed. Overflow 11, which is a special type of outlet, is situated such that foam and/or liquid may be removed from a top of the surface of the liquid level in the tank. Tank 7 also includes an outlet 12 situated below the liquid level. The overflow and the outlet are arranged such that the baffle structures may be arranged between them. The overflow, outlet and baffles are shown in Fig. 2 and described in the specification. These descriptions and depictions would be understandable by one of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner has allowed claims 17-23, 25, 27, and 32-34. Applicants have amended claims 18, 24, 26, and 28-31 to address the objections and rejections in the office action. Applicants submit that all claims are now allowable.

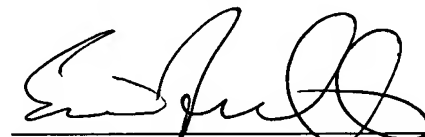
In conclusion, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application and early issuance of the notice of allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Date: 6/8/07

Respectfully submitted,



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